

# Office for Civil Rights

(dollars in millions)

	<u>1996 Actual</u>	<u>1997 Enacted</u>	<u>1998 Request</u>	<u>Request +/- Enacted</u>
<b>Budget Authority</b> .....	\$20	\$20	\$21	+\$1
<b>Program Level</b> .....	20	20	21	+1
<b>Outlays</b> .....	18	20	20	0
<b>FTE</b> .....	242	242	242	0

## Summary

The FY 1998 budget request for the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) is \$21 million, an increase of \$1 million over the FY 1996 and FY 1997 levels. OCR is responsible for enforcing civil rights statutes that prohibit discrimination in Federally-assisted health care and social services programs. These statutes cover nondiscrimination on the basis of race, national origin, disability, age, and in limited instances, sex and religion.

In addition, OCR is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Section 504 regulation that prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities in programs and activities conducted by HHS. OCR enforces nondiscrimination requirements by processing and resolving discrimination complaints, conducting reviews and investigations, monitoring corrective action plans, and carrying out voluntary compliance, outreach and technical assistance activities.

OCR has made significant progress in addressing issues such as race discrimination in access to health care and discrimination against persons with disabilities. In FY 1996, OCR

completed 5,279 discrimination complaint and review cases, with 40 to 50 percent of the cases resulting in changes in policies and practices.

This budget request reflects the continuation of the implementation of OCR's strategic plan. The plan has resulted in significant re-engineering of OCR's investigative and compliance processes through redesign and streamlining. The plan calls for expanded use of innovative partnerships both within HHS and at the State and local levels to ensure civil rights compliance. As a result of strategic plan initiatives, review and complaint investigation production is projected to increase by more than 20 percent.

In addition, the FY 1998 budget request includes funds to support outreach and other compliance initiatives that seek new ways of preventing civil rights problems and addressing potential discrimination in HHS programs. This includes implementation of new nondiscrimination requirements covering adoption and foster care placements that will support the President's Adoption 2002 initiative to double adoption placements.

# OCR OVERVIEW

(dollars in millions)

	<b><u>1996</u></b> <b><u>Actual</u></b>	<b><u>1997</u></b> <b><u>Enacted</u></b>	<b><u>1998</u></b> <b><u>Request</u></b>	<b><u>Request</u></b> <b><u>+/- Enacted</u></b>
<b>Total, BA</b> .....	\$20	\$20	\$21	+\$1
<b>FTE</b> .....	242	242	242	0